

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus configured to support a body thereon, the apparatus comprising:  
a first support zone adapted to support a first portion of the body; and  
a second support zone adapted to support a second portion of the body;  
wherein each of the first support zone and the second support zone includes  
a plurality of bladders; and  
a three-dimensional fiber network, one of the plurality of bladders and  
the three-dimensional fiber network being supported by the other of the  
plurality of bladders and the three-dimensional fiber network.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first support zone and the  
second support zone are first and second independent mattress sections.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a mattress support, the  
first mattress section and the second mattress section being removably coupled to the  
mattress support.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of bladders are  
inflatable bladders.
5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the plurality of inflatable  
bladders are supported by the at least one three-dimensional fiber network.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support is coupled to a source  
of pressurized air to provide a low air loss surface for supporting the body.
7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the plurality of bladders are  
inflatable and a top surface of the plurality of bladders includes a plurality of  
apertures configured to permit air to pass through the top surface of the plurality of  
bladders.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of bladders extend transversely.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first support zone and the second support zone both further comprise at least one foam member, the at least one foam member cooperating with the plurality of bladders and the three-dimensional fiber network to provide support for the respective portion of the body.

10. An apparatus configured to support a body in a recumbent position thereon, the apparatus comprising:

at least one cover including a top surface defining a support surface for the body;

at least one plurality of inflatable bladders positioned below the top surface of the at least one cover; and

at least one three-dimensional fiber network positioned below the top surface of the at least one cover, the at least one plurality of inflatable bladders and the at least one three-dimensional fiber network cooperating to provide support for at least a chest region of the body when the body is in the recumbent position.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein one of the at least one plurality of inflatable bladders and the at least one three-dimensional fiber network is supported by the other of the at least one plurality of inflatable bladders and the at least one three-dimensional fiber network.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the at least one plurality of inflatable bladders are supported by the at least one three-dimensional fiber network.

13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the apparatus is coupled to a source of pressurized air to provide a low air loss surface for supporting the body.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the top surface of the at least one cover includes a plurality of apertures configured to permit air to pass through the top surface of the at least one cover.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the top portion of the at least one plurality of inflatable bladders is formed from the top surface of the at least one cover.

16. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the at least one plurality of bladders extend transversely.

17. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising at least one foam member positioned below the top surface of the at least one cover, the at least one foam member cooperating with the at least one plurality of inflatable bladders and the at least one three-dimensional fiber network to provide support for the body when the body is in the recumbent position.

18. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the at least one cover defines an interior region, at least the at least one three-dimensional fiber network being positioned within the interior region of the at least one cover.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the at least one plurality of inflatable bladders are positioned within the interior region of the at least one cover.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising at least one foam member positioned below the top surface of the at least one cover, the at least one foam member cooperating with the at least one plurality of bladders and the at least one three-dimensional fiber network to provide support for the body when the body is in the recumbent position.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the at least one foam member is positioned within the interior region of the at least one cover.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the at least one cover further includes a perimetral surface and a bottom surface, the top surface, perimetral surface, and bottom surface cooperating to define the interior region of the at least one cover.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the bottom surface includes an opening, the opening configured to receive the at least one foam member such that the at least one foam member is positioned in the interior region of the at least one cover.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the bottom surface is comprised of a plurality of flaps.

25. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a first mattress section including a first cover, a first plurality of inflatable bladders, and a first three-dimensional fiber network; a second mattress section including a second cover, a second plurality of inflatable bladders, and a second three-dimensional fiber network.

26. An apparatus configured to support a body in a recumbent position thereon, the apparatus comprising:

a first layer including a three-dimensional fiber network;

a second layer including a at least one foam member, one of the first layer and the second layer being supported by the other of the first layer and the second layer; and

a third layer including a plurality of bladders, the third layer being positioned adjacent one of the first layer and the second layer, the first layer, the second layer and the third layer cooperating to provide support for the body when the body is in the recumbent position.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the first layer, the second layer, and the third layer are segmented into multiple mattress sections.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein each mattress section further includes a cover, the cover defining an interior region and the three-dimensional fiber network being positioned within the interior region of the cover.

29. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the plurality of bladders are inflatable bladders.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the plurality of inflatable bladders are segmented into at least a first plurality of bladders and a second plurality of bladders.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the individual bladders of the first plurality of bladders are grouped together and the individual bladders of the second plurality of bladders are grouped together.

32. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the first plurality of bladders includes a first input configured to be coupled to a source of pressurized air and wherein the second plurality of bladders includes a second input configured to be coupled to the source of pressurized air.

33. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the third layer is incorporated into a cover having an interior region for receiving the first layer and the second layer, the third layer and the cover being a disposable portion.

34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the first layer, second layer, and third layer are supported by a base.

35. A method of providing a mattress, including the steps of:  
providing a cover including a top support surface, an opening defined by a bottom edge, and an interior region, the opening permitting access to the interior region;

providing a foam support;

providing a three-dimensional fiber network; and

positioning the cover such that foam support and the three-dimensional fiber network are within the interior region of the cover and the three-dimensional fiber network is positioned between the foam support and the support surface of the cover.

36. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of covering

the three-dimensional fiber network and the foam support with a ticking material.

37. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of providing an input to the cover, the input being configured to be coupled to a source of pressurized air.

38. The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of providing a plurality of inflatable bladders, the plurality of inflatable bladders being in fluid communication with the air input.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein the top support surface of the cover is configured to permit air to pass therethrough and further comprising the step of coupling a source of pressurized air to the air input such air is forced through the top support surface to provide a low air loss.

40. The method of claim 35, wherein the bottom edge is defined by a plurality of flaps coupled together.